[English]

Appraisal of Public Distribution System

3726. SHRI HARIN PATHAK : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Government have made any mid-term appraisal of the Public Distribution System during the Eighth Five Year Plan period;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof;

(c) whether the targets fixed for the plan period have been achieved;

(d) if so, the details thereof;

(e) if not, the reasons therefor; and

(f) the remedial measures taken by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF FOOD AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI DEVENDRA PRASAD YADAV) : (a) and (b). Government has not carried out any special mid term appraisal of the Public Distribution System (PDS) during the Eighth Five Year period. However, an evaluation of the Revamped Public Distribution System (RPDS) was carried out by the Programme Evaluation Organisation (PEO) of the Planning Commission. This evaluation has indicated that the scheme is generally beneficial to the vulnerable sections of the population cutting across the regions and the States. The study has also pointed out some gaps and constraints in the scheme. These have been brought to the notice of the State Governments and Union Territory Administrations who are responsible for the day to day implementation of the PDS as well as the RPDS for suitable intervention by them.

(c) to (f). The targets under the RPDS were proposed by the State Governments/UT Administrations themselves. As per reports received from the State Governments, country level targets have been achieved in the case of opening of additional fair price shops, issue of additional ration cards, elimination of bogus cards, and creation/hiring of additional godown capacity. Central Government reviews the progress in implementation of RPDS with the States/UTs periodically.

Central Government is providing financial assistance to States/UTs for construction of godowns and for purchase of trucks/vans for use as mobile fair price shops or for delivering PDS commodities at the door steps of fair price shops.

Foundation of Health Action

3727. SHRI KRISHAN LAL SHARMA : Will the Minister of CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS be pleased to state :

(a) whether according to the Foundation of Health Action as many as 80% of the drugs being marketed in the country have very little relevance to the treatment for which they are manufactured;

(b) whether manufacturers easily obtain licences for the manufacture of such medicines;

(c) whether the Government propose to check this; and

(d) if so, the steps taken by the Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF CHEMICALS AND FERTILIZERS (SHRI SIS RAM OLA): (a) to (d) Information will be collected and placed on the Table of the House.

Torturing of Child Servant

3728. SHRI BHAKTA CHARAN DAS : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the attention of the Government has been drawn to the news item Captioned "Child servent tortured at Ministry's official house", appearing in Indian Express, dated September 9, 1996;

(b) whether any enquiry has been conducted in this regard;

(c) if so, the findings thereof;

(d) the action taken/likely to be taken against the guilty official; and

(e) the specific measures being contemplated to check such incidents in future?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) The Government have seen the captioned news item which appeared in the "Indian Express" in its issue dated the 15th September, 1996.

(b) to (e). The Delhi Police have registered a case in the matter. The investigation conducted so far has not, however, substantiated the allegation that the child was tortured.

[Translation]

Crimes in Uttar Pradesh

3729. SHRI GANGA CHARAN RAJPUT : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a police inspector was killed in the shooting at the time of filing of the nomination paper at Etawah, Uttar Pradesh;

(b) if so, whether any inquiry was conducted in this matter;

(c) if so, the outcome of the inquiry and the action taken against the guilty persons; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?